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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,509	03/20/2001	John Shannon	9958-002-27 CONT	1381

7590 08/28/2003
Supervisor, Patent Prosecution Services
PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE LLP
1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-2412

EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

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DATE MAILED: 08/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

Shin-Lin Chen

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Commissioner for Patents

The supplemental amendment filed on 6-25-03 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action mailed 12-2-02 (Paper No. 5) because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): The second supplemental amendment filed 6-25-03 only amends claim 23 but fails to correct the non-responsive amendment filed 5-2-03 for claims 28, 28 and 31. The amended claims 28, 29 and 31 in the supplemental amendment filed 5-2-03 still altered the claimed invention from "using a sponge harboring a bacteria" to "using a sponge alone, and said sponge has a symbiotic relationship with bacteria". The amendment should not change the claimed invention. Since the above mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Lin Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds can be reached on (703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Shin-Lin Chen, Ph.D.

Shin-Lin Chen

Shin-Lin Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1632